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# As U.S. coup stalls in Venezuela Haiti rebels

By John Parker

As Ralph Ellison portrayed in his groundbreaking book "Invisible Man," the plight and the struggles of African peoples are often ignored by mainstream media. And because of the ability of the ruling class to spread the racist idea that countries consisting of dark-skinned peoples are of no consequence, that invisibility manifests as apathy and ignorance even amongst some progressive news outlets.

Take Haiti, for example. The protests that exploded in July 2018 appeared as if coming out of thin air — as if coming from a fourth dimension into our three dimensional world, missing the element of time and history giving context. But those protests — of fuel price increases of 38 percent to 50 percent by President Jovenel Moïse's government — were also a culmination of anger at the consistent violence, poverty, shortages and stolen elections in collusion with U.S. and European imperialism.

Also at the center of the com-



PHOTO: HAITIINFOPROJECT/KEVINPENA

**Anti-govt protester Feb. 17 in front of Haiti's National Palace holds Venezuela flag in solidarity with Maduro.**

plaints against the Moïse government is the consistent corruption that culminated in proven theft of the \$4 billion in Petrocaribe loans given by Venezuela to Haiti for social service relief programs, money that wound up in the pockets of government officials and members of the Haitian Parliament.

However, the protests also reflect a history of unwavering determination against those assaults. Those out in the streets are the descendants of a people who won the first

successful slave revolution in 1804 — freeing themselves and defeating the mighty French military.

The militant protests in July 2018 stopped business as usual and forced the announced price hikes demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be rescinded. Then, in October, they tried to implement fuel price increases again, which were also stopped by more militant protests.

All of the protests have been met with brutal repression, and, as of early February, as the repression increased so did the militancy. Flights on major airlines are restricting travel to Haiti and the government has canceled Carnival. According to the Miami Herald: "Observers say this is only the third time in recent memories that the Haitian government has canceled Carnival. The previous two occasions were in 1986, after the fall of the nearly 30-year Duvalier family dictatorship and in 2010, after the country's massive earthquake."

CNN reports that, as of Feb. 16, the U.S. and Canadian governments have warned people not to travel to Haiti

"due to crime and civil unrest." The Canadian government has issued a travel advisory to "avoid all travel to Haiti."

Although CNN reports this week say that the protests have calmed down, a conflicting report this week says that the protests have gotten so intense that family members of President Jovenel Moïse are reportedly leaving the country in fear. According to a report by Yves Engler on Feb. 22:

"The Haiti Information Project reported that Canadian troops may have helped family members of President Jovenel Moïse's unpopular government flee the country. HIP tweeted, 'troops & plainclothes from Canada providing security at Toussaint Louverture airport in Port-au-Prince today as cars from Haiti's National Palace also drop off government official's family to leave the country today. ... Two days after Canadian troops were spotted at the airport five heavily armed former U.S. soldiers were arrested. The

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From Wall Street to main streets across the U.S. and Canada protests demanded, 'U.S. hands off Venezuela! No coup, no sanctions, no war.' In Baltimore on Jan. 23, pictured here, Struggle-La-Lucha, Black Alliance for Peace, Youth Against War and Racism, Maryland Communist Party, Peoples Power Assembly, Ujima Peoples Progress Party. See page 4 for international actions.

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# Students Unite to Demand Districtwide Ethnic Studies Create and implement their own program

By Gloria Verdieu  
San Diego

In March of 2016, the San Diego Unified School Board voted to ensure resources are in place to expand Ethnic Studies in the San Diego City School District after hearing a report from the Ethnic Studies Now Coalition Advisory Committee. The report was based on research done by members of the advisory committee which confirmed that an Ethnic Studies curriculum increases student attendance, grades, participation and overall interest in school. The advisory committee developed Ethnic Studies courses at two San Diego high schools for the 2016-2017 school year as part of a pilot program.

That was two years ago and even though there has been some progress, it is moving much too slow. Too slow for Latinx students at High Tech High in the neighboring city of Chula Vista, which is why they decided to create and implement their own Ethnic Studies curriculum.

At the Association of Raza Educators (ARE) general meeting on Feb. 12, two students who participated in the struggle to demand Ethnic Studies in all schools spoke on how they successfully implemented an ethnic studies curriculum at their school.

High Tech High students Luz Victoria and Fernanda Siordia began their presentation with a slide that read “Ethnic Studies — Fight for Ethnic Studies — No History, No Self



San Diego Ethnic Studies Now Coalition. Left, High Tech High students Luz Victoria and Fernanda Siordia led an Ethnic Studies program in their school.



SLL PHOTOS: GLORIA VERDIEU

— Know History, Know Self” — artistically designed and laid out like a banner. The next slide had interesting facts about High Tech High: 70 percent of its student body are Latinx; the school is located 15 minutes away from the U.S./Mexican international port of entry, in nearly four years of high school these students only experienced four Latinx teachers, and the school is project-based and has been culturally impacted by the 2016 presidential election.

At the meeting, there were students from Castle Park High School, Lincoln High School and Lindsay Community School, which is where the meeting was held. These students were not only interested in

how students at High Tech High were able to implement an Ethnic Studies program, but some wanted to know, what is Ethnic Studies?

## Ethnic Studies is important

Luz explained that the current school textbooks do not include the rich history of the Indigenous people, African people, Asian people, Palestinian people, and the list goes on. It is as if these people had made no contributions to the development of the world. It is important, she emphasized, that we know our history and our contributions. Since the textbooks don't have it, we have to bring our own books, do our own research and challenge what is being presented to us.

Luz noted that the students received a lot of resistance at first, but as the teachers began to see the improvements in the students who participated in Ethnic Studies classes, the students began to get more support from them. Teachers began to see the value in students learning about who they are in relationship to the world. The classes discussed

topics like solidarity, respect and listening, as well as the concepts of imperialism, class consciousness and white supremacy, she continued.

Organizers encountered challenges recruiting male students, white students and students with the ability to speak on pressing issues. For this project to work, students must increase their consciousness by studying and leading.

The big question is: How can these school-based advances be maintained? One way is through community involvement. That is what ARE and Unión del Barrio had in mind when they began Escuela Aztlan Saturday classes, an Unión del Barrio project for barrio youth.

Escuela Aztlan is an independent school organized by young people and educators to develop cultural and political consciousness. Its mission is to educate youth about Raza history, current events and the power we possess to change our communities. Topics in the school's curriculum include May Day history, Chicano Park Day, the Mexican Revolution, Education vs. Prisons, Farmworkers, LGBTQ2S issues, Indigenous struggles and more.

Classes begin in February and end in December with Escuela Aztlan graduation and the Raza Liberation and Youth Conference.

All attending the ARE meeting applauded Luz and Fernanda for their hard work, leadership and presentation. We know it is not easy, but if we want to succeed, we can't just wait. We have to move forward and do it ourselves. These students are setting an example for all students in all schools to intensify the movement for Ethnic Studies from pre-school to graduation. [\[u\]](#)

## Oakland ► Denver ► West Virginia Teachers and communities unite to win

By Scott Scheffer  
Los Angeles

March 2 — After seven days on strike, members of the Oakland Education Association (OEA) have reached a tentative deal with Oakland's school board in what seems a resounding victory! A ratification vote will take place Sunday, March 3.

According to OEA's website, the offer includes an 11 percent raise over four years, a 3 percent bonus, more funds to retain teachers (Oakland's teacher retention suffers because of high housing costs in the area.), lower classroom sizes, a five-month moratorium on the planned closure of 24 schools, and a moratorium on the growth of charter schools.

The Oakland School Board had been trying to meet to discuss \$20.2 million in budget cuts for the next school year, but striking teachers repeatedly blocked them from entering the building and forced them to postpone twice. Charter school workers sent messages of solidarity with the strike and joined the picket lines. Thousands of students marched through Oakland in solidarity.

The demands in Oakland reflected the national crisis in public ed-

ucation due to the growth of charter schools, similar to the teachers' strike in Los Angeles in January reported on by [struggle-la-lucha.org](http://struggle-la-lucha.org). The workers in both cities pushed for salary increases, smaller classroom sizes, more nurses, counselors, librarians and other support staff, and more oversight of charter schools. Charter schools draw funds away from public education budgets, yet are not subject to regulation and oversight that defends equality in education. As charters have become more prevalent, public education has been starved for funds and has lost students and teachers.

The teachers' strike movement began in February 2018 in West Virginia, a right-to-work state where teachers were among the lowest paid in the country. The strike was initially unauthorized — a wildcat strike. The odds against winning in a right-to-work state are not good because laws make it difficult for unions to recruit. But the strikers won a 5 percent raise for all public employees statewide, and raised awareness nationwide about the low pay and defunding of education. Through news reports, people suddenly got a closer look at how what was supposed to

be one of the high ideals of capitalism — public education — was being thrown overboard as part of the broad corporate offensive against unions over the decades.

By the summer of 2018, teachers' strikes were happening in Oklahoma, Washington, Arizona, Kentucky, Colorado and North Carolina. Among those states, only Colorado and Washington are not right-to-work states. Each strike yielded at least a partial victory, and even in states where there weren't strikes on the horizon, state governments noticed that the militancy was spreading. Arkansas, New Mexico, Maryland, South Carolina and Louisiana are among states in which increases in funding for teachers' salaries have happened or are likely to happen.

The teachers' strike momentum continued in 2019 with a January strike in Los Angeles, and just before Oakland went out, there was also a strike in Denver. On Feb. 11, after 15 months of negotiations, 2,000 members of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) struck. Colorado's teachers are among the lowest paid in the country, earning an average of \$46,155 in 2016, so salary increases were a major issue.

After three days on the picket line, DCTA won a pay increase of 11.25 percent and cost of living increases in the future for all public education staff. They also won a new promotion system based on seniority, experience and training that was an answer to a bonus system that was based on merit.

Soon after the Denver win, teachers in West Virginia came to the forefront again as they protested a bill in the state legislature that would have authorized charter schools there for the first time. The bill was sweetened by an additional 5 percent salary increase for teachers. They walked off the job in their second strike in less than a year. Teachers in 54 of West Virginia's 55 counties struck and hundreds of union members occupied the rotunda of the state Capitol building in Charleston just like they did in 2018!

Within hours, the education bill was pulled from the floor. Wary of politicians' treachery, the unions added one more day to the strike so that their message — No charters! — would be clear. Then on Thursday, after they went back to teaching, the state legislature passed a different

*Continued on the next page*

INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8

# CLAUDIA JONES

## Afro Caribbean communist woman in struggle

As Black History Month 2019 concludes and Women's History Month begins, we want to take time to honor a revolutionary Afro-Caribbean im/migrant woman who unfortunately isn't discussed as widely as she deserves to be, given her immense contributions to Marxist theory and organizing the struggle. Her name is Claudia Jones.

Her life was full of hardship, pain and suffering — but also unbreakable courage and dedication to fight for the full liberation of the Black nation and all oppressed peoples worldwide.

Wherever she lived, Jones was on the front lines, leading movements of resistance against injustice.

Jones was born Claudia Cumberbatch on Feb. 21, 1915, in Port of Spain, the capital city of the island of Trinidad. In 1924, when she was 8 years old, she arrived in New York with her parents, aunt and sisters. Her mother died less than a decade later at the young age of 37. Claudia then became ill with tuberculosis. She would suffer complications throughout her life. Her father, meanwhile, struggled to find steady employment due to racism, anti-migrant bigotry and the economic collapse of the Great Depression.

Jones became one of the most important political organizers in the Communist Party USA as well as an enormously important figure in the Black freedom struggle. Due to her life experiences, from a young age she had a very deep understanding of the class struggle and the way various oppressions intersect.

### Joining the Communist Party

In the mid-1930s, Jones became an activist and organizer on the Scottsboro Nine case. More commonly referred to as the Scottsboro Boys, these nine African-American youths were falsely accused of raping two white women. The Scottsboro Nine were convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to death — without evidence, investigation or a fair trial.

The Communist Party and the NAACP led the defense efforts on behalf of these youths. Legal appeals, demonstrations, international solidarity campaigns and other tactics challenged the corrupt and racist injustice system that was seeking to lynch these young Black men.

This defense campaign was ultimately successful in saving the Scottsboro Nine from being executed — the common fate of Black people targeted with those kinds of accusations. Jones' experience with the defense led her to join the Com-

munist Party and the Young Communist League.

By the early 1940s, Jones was a leader in the two organizations. She also gained experience as a people's journalist, working as a writer and editor for various Black and progressive publications. She became a member of the CPUSA's National Committee as well as the secretary of the National Women's Commission.

### Advancing understanding of intersectionality

Jones developed much needed theory regarding the woman question, the national question and the way these oppressions intersect.

One of her best-known pieces was first published in the June 1949 edition of Political Affairs, the theoretical magazine of the CPUSA, dedicated to "The Struggle Against White Chauvinism." Her widely studied essay, later released as a pamphlet, was called "An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman." Following are excerpts from this work:

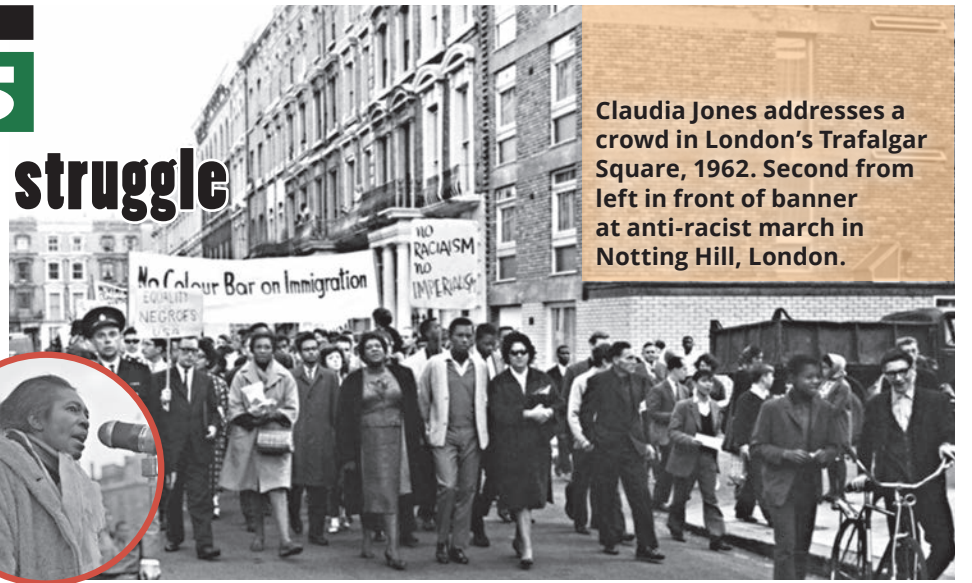
"An outstanding feature of the present stage of the Negro liberation movement is the growth in the militant participation of Negro women in all aspects of the struggle for peace, civil rights and economic security. Symptomatic of this new militancy is the fact that Negro women have, become symbols of the Negro people. This growth of militancy among Negro women has profound meaning, both for the Negro liberation movement and for the emerging anti-fascist, anti-imperialist coalition.

"To understand this militancy correctly, to deepen and extend the role of Negro women in the struggle for peace and for all interests of the working class and the Negro people, means primarily to overcome the gross neglect of the special problems of Negro women. This neglect has too long permeated the ranks of the labor movement generally, of Left-progressives, and also of the Communist Party. The most serious assessment of these shortcomings by progressives, especially by Marxist-Leninists, is vitally necessary if we are to help accelerate this development and integrate Negro women in the progressive and labor movement and in our own Party.

"The bourgeoisie is fearful of the militancy of the Negro woman, and for good reason. The capitalists know, far better than many progressives seem to know, that once Negro women begin to undertake action, the militancy of the whole Negro people, and thus of the anti-imperialist coalition, is greatly enhanced.

"Historically, the Negro woman has been the guardian, the protector, of the Negro family. From the days of the slave traders down to the present, the Negro woman has had the responsibility of caring for the needs of the family, of militantly shielding it from the blows of Jim Crow insults, of rearing children in an atmosphere of lynch terror, segregation and police brutality, and of fighting for an education for the children.

"The intensified oppression of the Negro people, which has been the hallmark of the postwar reactionary



Claudia Jones addresses a crowd in London's Trafalgar Square, 1962. Second from left in front of banner at anti-racist march in Notting Hill, London.

offensive, cannot therefore but lead to an acceleration of the militancy of the Negro woman. As mother, as Negro, and as worker, the Negro woman fights against the wiping out of the Negro family, against the Jim Crow ghetto existence which destroys the health, morale and very life of millions of her sisters, brothers and children.

"Viewed in this light, it is not accidental that the American bourgeoisie has intensified its oppression, not only of the Negro people in general, but of Negro women in particular. Nothing so exposes the drive to fascism in the nation as the callous attitude which the bourgeoisie displays and cultivates toward Negro women."

### Surveillance, repression, deportation

Jones was targeted by the state as her theoretical contributions and political organizing increasingly posed a threat to white supremacist capitalism. She had been monitored by the FBI since the early days of her membership in the CPUSA.

Jones was first arrested in January 1948, during the early days of the Cold War witch hunt, based on her migrant status and radical political organizing. She was soon released after posting bail, but it was only the beginning of her travails with the criminal injustice system.

She had applied for and sought citizenship status for many years but was denied time and time again because of her affiliation with the CPUSA. (To this day, U.S. citizenship can be denied to migrants based on membership in a communist organization, affiliation with anyone who is a member, or any other political stand deemed hostile to U.S. imperialism.)

The state next targeted her through the McCarran Act and the Smith Act, federal measures used against the organizing efforts of revolutionary organizations and particularly those members who were most vulnerable by lacking citizenship status.

By the early 1950s, Claudia Jones was in a women's prison awaiting deportation. Due to her health problems and the horrendous living conditions in prison, she suffered a heart attack.

Many public figures, community members and communist organizers came to her defense, including her friend Paul Robeson, who demanded Jones' release from prison and that she be given proper medical attention.

Jones was finally released in late October 1955 while deportation orders were being prepared. A farewell was held at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. Hundreds of people showed up to express their solidarity and commitment to continuing the struggle. This was the same hotel where Fidel Castro stayed in 1960 and held his historic meeting with Malcolm X.

Blocked from returning to her native Trinidad in the midst of the growing anti-colonial movement in the British-ruled islands of the Caribbean, Jones was deported to Britain. This certainly didn't stop her from continuing her radical organizing.

### Repression breeds resistance

While Jones was dealing with her deportation and worsening health, she remained dedicated to the struggle against imperialism, capitalism and all of its tools of repression. Though hospitalized for long periods, she continued to expand her work through all of this hardship. She became a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain and joined the West Indian Forum.

Jones was active in organizing the Caribbean migrant population in London. By 1958, she had co-founded the West Indian Workers' and Students' Association and the West Indian Gazette newspaper. It would later be renamed the West Indian Gazette and Afro-Asian Caribbean News. The publication played a major role in the Caribbean diaspora community, helping to found the first Caribbean carnival in London. It later became the Notting Hill Carnival, an annual event that continues to this day.

Jones helped to organize the Afro-Asian Caribbean Conference. In 1964, she traveled to China and met with communist leader Mao Zedong. She also attended women's conferences in the Soviet Union.

She organized demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa, along with rallies calling for the freedom of political prisoner Nelson Mandela. Jones embodied the spirit of international proletarian solidarity.

### Left of Karl Marx

Claudia Jones died of heart failure in December 1964 at age 49. She was buried in the east section of Highgate Cemetery in London. Her gravestone is located near that of Karl Marx, directly to the left.

Marx's tomb has been in the news recently due to two separate acts of vandalism. It's crucial that we defend against these attacks on the legacy of Karl Marx — a tradition that Claudia Jones continued and developed.

Jones' gravestone reads, "Valiant fighter against racism and imperialism who dedicated her life to the progress of socialism and the liberation of her own Black people."

In the spirit of Claudia Jones, the struggle continues!

Sources: Carole Boyce-Davies, "Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones," Duke University Press, 2008; Carole Boyce-Davies, "Claudia Jones: Beyond Containment," Ayebia Clarke Publishing, 2011; Claudia Jones, "An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman," Political Affairs, 1949; Claudia Jones, West Indian Gazette and Afro-Asian Caribbean News.

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bill. This one simply gave the teachers the 5 percent raise. Yes! This all really happened in a right-to-work state.

And finally now, charter school workers themselves are joining unions, are extending solidarity to other union members, have struck and won at a school in Los Angeles, and are currently on strike at four charter schools in Chicago.

There's an old saying in the labor movement: If you don't have a union, fight to get one. If you do have a union, fight to make it fight! 📢

Read more at [struggle-la-lucha.org](http://struggle-la-lucha.org)



PHOTO: VLAUDIN VEGA



PHOTO: SUCI(C)



PHOTO: ITALIA-VENEZUELA BOLIVARIANA



PHOTO: STANISLAV RETINSKIY

# People worldwide stand with Bolivarian Venezuela

By Greg Butterfield

“The extremist Ku Klux Klan government that Donald Trump directs wants a war over oil, and more than just oil,” said Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in an interview with ABC News.

The Venezuelan people know it. Workers and oppressed people around the world know it. And they are taking action to stop it.

Feb. 23 was the D-Day set by Trump and his appointed “interim president” Juan Guaidó to forcibly bring humanitarian aid across the Colombian border into Venezuela. It was meant to be a beachhead for U.S. military intervention.

The plot flopped. The Venezuelan people mobilized, hundreds of thousands strong, from the border flash-point to the capital, Caracas. The Venezuelan government, the military and the masses of working people handled Washington’s provocations with strength and discipline. The “aid” trucks didn’t pass.

But the Venezuelan people weren’t standing up to imperialism only on their own. Not only here in the U.S., but around the world that day — in hundreds of cities, towns and villages — people demonstrated in

solidarity with Venezuela, understanding that their own struggles for daily survival and a better future are tied up with Bolivarian Venezuela’s resistance to imperialism.

When Feb. 23 was still hours away from dawning in Caracas, people in **Australia** were already in the streets of Sydney, Brisbane and other cities demanding “Hands Off Venezuela!”

The people’s movement in the **Philippines** and its global diaspora called on supporters to join actions in defense of President Maduro and the Bolivarian Revolution, including Anakbayan NY: “This is not the first time the U.S. has sought to stage a coup in Venezuela, and it falls in line with 100 years of violence that the U.S. has enacted across Latin America in the name of empire. As a former colony of the U.S., the Philippines shares this history. We, the Filipino youth, assert our unequivocal solidarity with the Venezuelan people in the struggle against imperialism.”

In **India**, protests organized by the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) in many cities — including Bhopal, Kolkata, Patna and Rohtak — featured the torching of Donald Trump effigies, a sight sure to warm the hearts of millions. “The U.S. government should stop interfering in Venezuela’s internal politics,” said SUCI(C). “Who gave the U.S. the right to establish democracy in a country? U.S. imperialism should be standing in the woodshed. Its history has been to transform Iraq and Afghanistan into ruins. It destroyed Libya and Syria. Now Venezuela and its big oil reserves are the targets of U.S. imperialism.”

Donetsk, capital of the **Donetsk People’s Republic**, has been besieged for

the last five years by war and sanctions imposed by the U.S.-backed coup regime in Kiev, **Ukraine**. There, members of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People’s Republic rallied in solidarity with Venezuela at the monument of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin in the city’s central square. Meanwhile, Alexey Albu of Ukraine’s outlawed anti-fascist group Borotba, arriving in Caracas for the International Peoples’ Assembly, told reporters, “We have seen how the U.S. operated in Ukraine. We have seen what this leads to. Fortunately, the citizens of Venezuela also understand this threat, so they rallied around their president to fight off the impending storm.” Hundreds of delegates from 85 countries gathered for the assembly, which began Feb. 24.

Earlier in February, **Palestine** liberation forces, including the Marxist Popular Front (PFLP) and the Democratic Front (DFLP), held demonstrations in solidarity with Venezuela. “There is a similarity between the Palestinian people and the Venezuelan people,” said Nisreen Abu Amra, a member of the DFLP Central Committee in Gaza. “We are in the same trench, facing a reactionary, imperialist conspiracy led by the United States and Israel.”

More online at [Struggle-La-Lucha.org](http://Struggle-La-Lucha.org)



PHOTO: TELESUR



PHOTO: FIRE THIS TIME



PHOTO: COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND



PHOTO: ILPS



SLL PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

## Los Angeles event builds Venezuelan-Syrian solidarity

By Scott Scheffer  
Los Angeles

On Feb. 19, John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and Struggle for Socialism-La Lucha por el Socialismo spoke here at a meeting of Arab Americans for Syria (AA4Syria) about U.S. attempts to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and sabotage the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

Parker was invited to speak based on his having visited Venezuela and the fact that Struggle-La Lucha has been organizing demonstrations and meetings on the issue. The International Action Center West Coast, of which Parker is director, has also organized alongside AA4Syria in fighting against the U.S. imperialist war on the Syrian people.



John Parker

sponsors are the American Indian Movement SoCal, Unión del Barrio, School of the Americas Watch-L.A., CISPES-L.A. Chapter, Eastside Greens of L.A. County, Radio Justice, the Humanity First Coalition, California for Progress, the International League of Peoples Struggles-Southern California, the Democratic Socialists of America-L.A., the Peoples Power Assembly, the International Action Center West Coast and the Harriet Tubman Center.

## U.S. out of Ukraine! Hands off Venezuela!

The week of Feb. 17-23 marks five years since a U.S.-backed coup in Kiev, Ukraine, overthrew the elected president and installed a far-right government that includes open neo-Nazis. Anti-fascists and anti-war activists are using this tragic anniversary to warn workers of the similar campaign



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

being waged by the Trump administration today against Venezuela, and to build solidarity with those fighting the repressive Kiev dictatorship.

A squad of activists, including members of Struggle-La Lucha, went to New York’s Times Square at rush hour on Feb. 18 to hand out leaflets and hold an informational picket outside the U.S. military recruitment center. They distributed a flyer headlined “U.S. coups: Ukraine 2014 – Honduras 2009 – Venezuela 2019? We say no!” It provided information on the effects of U.S. supported coups on the people in these countries and the importance of taking to the streets on Feb. 23 for the global #HandsOffVenezuela day of action.

Pickets chanted: “USA, CIA, out of Ukraine! Hands off Venezuela!” Signs also pointed to the need to stop the ongoing war by Ukraine, armed and funded by the U.S./NATO, against the anti-fascist Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics.

Barbara Larissa, a Brazilian worker living in the U.S., told Struggle-La Lucha why she joined the action: “The U.S. is well known for its history of invasions and coups around the globe, like the intervention in Ukraine five years ago that is still happening, causing damage to that country and its people. It needs to stop.

“Now all of Trump’s attention is on Venezuela,” she explained, “because he decided to support Juan Guaidó, favorite of the far right, and give Venezuela back to capital again.

“Our current president, Jair Bolsonaro, was elected last year with U.S. and mass media help. Now, Trump wants to work very closely with Brazil, to get Bolsonaro’s support to invade Venezuela with the help of Colombia. We are already denouncing Bolsonaro’s government around the globe. He is a threat to Brazilian people and to the world,” Larissa concluded.

– by Greg Butterfield

# Bolivarian Venezuela defeats coup deadline, readies for next round

By Cheryl LaBash  
Washington, D.C.

Bolivarian Venezuela soundly defeated the Feb. 23 U.S.-set deadline for regime change. The corporate media-enhanced, openly provocative plans to violate Venezuela’s import and border control laws were solidly rebuffed. United human barriers of Venezuelan police, military and Chavista masses firmly stopped the weaponized aid.

In frustration at the political defeat, on the Colombian side of the border trucks alleged to be carrying humanitarian aid were torched in the vicinity of gangs filling gasoline bottle-bombs called molotov cocktails.

The Feb. 21 delivery of 7.5 tons of medicine proves that claims that President Nicolás Maduro Moro refuses “humanitarian aid” are a lie. These weekly shipments are purchased by Venezuela, circumventing the U.S. blockade sanctions which prohibit and punish such sales through the dollar dominated market. The Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization and other United Nations affiliated entities continue to work with the Bolivarian Venezuelan government.

The Red Cross and other international relief agencies have condemned politicization of humanitarian aid. They did not participate in the events in Cúcuta, Colombia, although their red cross symbol was falsely used there.

The U.S.-backed pretender, Juan Guaidó, has increased his call for U.S. military intervention, supported by dangerous statements by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence held a meeting Feb. 25 with Juan Guaidó and right-wing Colombian President Iván Duque in Bogotá to plot further aggression.

What leader would call down that disaster on their own people? Observers need only to remember the invasion of Iraq, of Libya, remember the U.S. aggression against Syria and the U.S.-armed devastation of Yemen. As Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza pointed out in an hour-long interview on Democracy Now, the U.S. bombs do not discriminate between the families of pro-Chavistas and the opposition.

The Bolivarian Revolution’s united, calm and firm support for President Maduro and resistance to border provocations has already

produced cracks in the pro-U.S. alliance. On Feb. 25, both Spain and the European Union distanced themselves from the U.S.-Guaidó call for war, announcing they will not support military intervention.

### Corporate media still complicit in U.S. imperial regime change

The international corporate media in the U.S. and Britain continue to orient their coverage to legitimize the Guaidó-U.S. coup plot. That 150 cities around the world demonstrated against the U.S. war on Venezuela is somehow not newsworthy. Where are the interviews that show that workers and poor people in the U.S. remember the baldfaced lies leading to the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the destruction of Libya?

Why wasn’t the disruption of the press conference attempted by the U.S. replacement government to normalize the coup plotters on Feb. 21 covered on the 6 o’clock news when Code Pink’s Medea Benjamin and Ariel Gold took over the microphone to speak truth to power?

Some headway has been made with National Public Radio. Demonstrations like the ones in Detroit have called out their biased reporting.

These voices and more continue to mobilize and educate broad sectors of the U.S. poor and working class, who will gain nothing from another U.S. war to line the pockets of the banks and international fossil fuel monopolies like Exxon Mobil Corp.

A national demonstration will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 16 and another two Saturdays later on March 30, before the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meets on April 4, insulting the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King’s assassination. Support the protest demonstrations, build them, attend them. In Los Angeles on March 16, be at McArthur Park at 11 a.m. for a multiorganizational effort, and later in the day with the Answer Coalition.

TeleSUR and other international media outlets are resources that counter the imperialist shaped narrative. TeleSUR itself may disappear from the internet and airwaves if a coup or military takeover succeeds. Some independent U.S. media are available online, including radio stations like WPFW-FM in Washington, D.C., media that oppose U.S. wars against Black and Brown people and against the working class inside the U.S. and abroad.

# Who is responsible for the economic crisis?

By Gary Wilson

The Trump administration has imposed a full-scale economic blockade against Venezuela. The assets of the state oil company held abroad, including Citgo, its U.S. branch, have been seized and handed over to the puppet Guaidó “government.” Venezuelan bank accounts have been frozen, including \$1.2 billion in gold bullion held in the Bank of England.

Venezuela is one of a bloc of three large oil-producing countries not under U.S. domination. The other two are Iran and Russia.

Trump’s sanctions on Venezuela have been economically devastating.

The sanctions have hobbled Venezuela’s oil industry so fully that the country has half a billion dollars worth of oil sitting in ships off its coast, Bloomberg reported Feb. 25.

From August 2017 to August 2018, earlier sanctions cost Venezuela about \$6 billion, reports Venezuela Analysis.

“In August 2017, Trump’s sanctions made it illegal for the Venezuelan government to obtain financing from the U.S., which was devastating for two reasons: all the Venezuelan government’s outstanding foreign currency bonds are governed under New York state law; and one of the Venezuelan government’s major assets, the state-owned Citgo corporation, is based in Texas. The sanctions also blocked Citgo from sending profits and dividends back to Venezuela (which had been averaging about \$1 billion USD per year since 2015).”

An accompanying chart shows that Venezuelan oil production followed essentially the same pattern as Colombia’s during 2016 and most of 2017 — until August, which is when Trump’s sanctions came into force.

While Venezuela has been having a hard time selling its oil, the rest of the world is struggling to find the premium heavy oil that Venezuela produces. The tightness in heavy oil supply translated into higher prices for Colombia’s oil, which competes with Venezuelan oil in the global market.

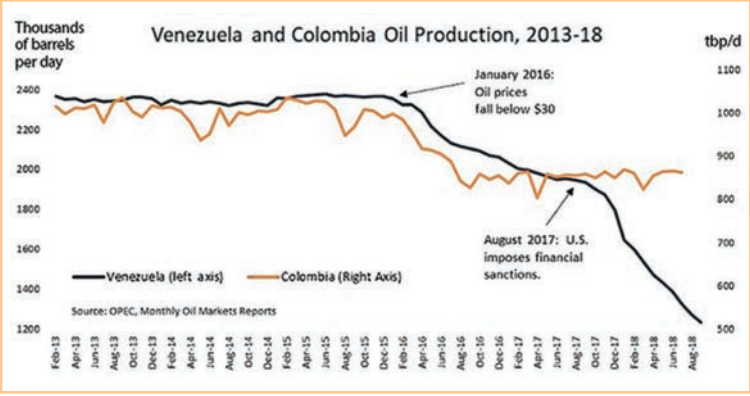
The goal of Trump’s sanctions is to starve Venezuela, hoping that that will bring about either a collapse of the government or a coup. But no one thinks that a collapse is near or likely, and the U.S. coup attempt with Guaidó failed.

### The economic crisis in Venezuela

Some say that Maduro, a school bus driver by profession, has been a terrible president and economic manager. But, despite what these opponents might be saying, the economic crisis was not caused by Maduro’s presidency or the Chavistas in Bolivarian Venezuela.

Does this mean the policies of Maduro’s government are perfect? Of course not. Perfection is unknown in any sphere of human activity, so it is certain that one could find errors or mistakes in the policies and practices of the Venezuelan government.

However, as a cause of the current crisis, any mistakes made by Maduro or other Chavistas, or even corruption within the Venezuelan government, are not driving forces for the economy. In reality, those who claim that the mistakes of Maduro and the Chavistas or corruption among the Chavistas are the cause of the Venezuelan economic crisis are, whether they know it or not, simply echoing U.S. imperialist propaganda.



### How oil prices affect the Venezuelan economy

Venezuela has a monoculture economy, a legacy of colonialism. That means that the world market price of a single commodity largely governs the state of its economy. When the price of oil is high, U.S. dollars flow into Venezuela. The Venezuelan economy booms and employment grows. But when the price of oil drops, money flows out. When this happens, the economy falls into crisis.

Isn’t Bolivarian Venezuela — under both President Chávez and President Maduro — subject to the criticism that they have failed to end Venezuela’s monoculture oil economy? Not at all, because the very name Bolivarian Revolution points to the road out of a monoculture economy. “Bolivarian” refers to Simón Bolívar, who in the 19th century attempted unsuccessfully to unite Latin America into a single nation-state. This points to a road out of the trap of an oil economy that Venezuela finds itself in and that is what they are fighting for.

Under Chávez, the government distributed oil revenues to the working class and poor of the cities and countryside. Massive housing con-

struction programs built more than 2.5 million homes. A crash program to tackle illiteracy was carried out. Health care became available to the mass of poor and working-class people for the first time. Agriculture was developed and 6.6 million acres of land was redistributed to 180,000 landless peasant families.

Chávez also adopted the banner of Simón Bolívar. Making Latin America a single nation-state would go a long way to solving the problem of monoculture economies that lead to periodic extreme economic crises and hyperinflation.

Trump blames the “socialist” policies of Venezuela for the economic crisis, not the colonial monoculture economy or U.S. sanctions. Trump’s message to our movement is clear. If you push for “socialist” policies such as Medicare for all or a \$15 minimum wage, the result will be runaway inflation and an economic crisis like is occurring in Venezuela.

In his State of the Union address, Trump pointed to the crisis in Venezuela and boasted that the U.S. would never be a “socialist country.” He did not mean socialism in the Marxist sense — if he had meant that he would have said the U.S. would never be a communist country — but rather “socialism” like Medicare for All, a \$15-an-hour minimum wage or the Green New Deal.

Trump is at least partly right. You cannot fully be for Medicare for All and a \$15-an-hour minimum wage if you do not support the fight of Bolivarian Venezuela against Trump, Wall Street and Big Oil.

# NY tenants say ‘Keep public housing public!’



PHOTOS: ANNE PRUDEN

By Anne Pruden  
New York

Dozens of tenants of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartments held a militant rally on Feb. 10 on the steps of City Hall. They chanted, “Keep public housing public!” In spite of freezing temperatures, they



came out on this raw day to protest Mayor Bill de Blasio’s proposal to sell off one-third of NYCHA homes.

These 62,000 apartments are to be sold to private real estate developers. The mayor and his team claim their plan will “save NYCHA.” Meanwhile, thousands of the 400,000 NYCHA tenants, including children, have suffered for months without heat and hot water at the coldest time of the year.

Jazz, a resident of the Jacob Riis Housing Project who spoke at the rally, exposed how the lack of services has also led to thousands of children being poisoned by lead paint.

Local, state and federal politicians stall and make excuses for the lack of funds to repair NYCHA buildings. But tenants and supporters, like rally sponsor Progress New York, have

presented alternative plans to pay for NYCHA repairs and improvement, such as increasing taxes on big businesses, or by redirecting \$3 billion in subsidies offered to Amazon.com to build its new headquarters in New York and \$10 billion planned to build new jails.

Another part of de Blasio’s plan calls for selling vacant lots owned by NYCHA to realtors to build more upscale apartments. But low-cost housing is what is desperately needed by the many working-class residents being driven out of their neighborhoods by gentrification.

The bill owed to the mostly Black and Latinx tenants of New York public housing is due. The tenants raised their voices loud and clear to demand “Fight for NYCHA!”

## As U.S. coup stalls in Venezuela Haiti rebels

Continued from page 1

next day the five Americans and two Serbian colleagues flew to the U.S. where they will not face charges. One of them, former Navy SEAL Chris Osman, posted on Instagram that he provided security ‘for people who are directly connected to the current President’ of Haiti. ... Dozens of anti-government protesters and individuals living in neighborhoods viewed as hostile to the government have been killed as calls for the president to step down have grown in recent months.”

Haiti is again showing that its invisibility belies its importance. And its historical relevance to today’s struggles against imperialism not only parallel the current crisis of Venezuela, but are where the history of Venezuela and all of Latin America’s fight against colonialism begins.

### Hugo Chávez on Haiti

On Jan. 12, 2010, after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, former President Hugo Chávez, announcing to the foreign ministers of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) the canceling of Haiti’s debt, explained, “Haiti has no debt with Venezuela, just the opposite: Venezuela has a historical debt with that nation, with that people for whom we feel not pity but rather admiration, and we share their faith, their hope.”

Chávez is referring to the military assistance and training that the victors of the first successful slave revolution provided to Venezuela’s Simón Bolívar, who was instrumental in helping Latin America liberate itself from Spanish colonialism. Venezuela’s Simón Bolívar is addressing Alexander Petion, the first president of liberated Haiti: “Should I not let it be known to later generations that Alexandre Petion is the true liberator of my country?”

Bolívar also borrowed Petion’s constitution when he wrote the constitution for newly liberated Bolivia. In the private letters of Simón Bolívar, published in “El Libertador: Writings of Simón Bolívar,” by David Bushnell, the chapter titled Bolivian Constitution quotes Bolívar:

“The president of Bolivia is endowed with powers similar to those of the American executive, but with

restrictions beneficial to the people. His term of office is the same as that of the presidents of Haiti. I have chosen as the model for Bolivia the executive of the most democratic republic in the world. The island of Haiti (forgive my digression) found herself in a state of constant insurrection. After having tried every type of government known to man — empire, monarchy, republic — and a few never seen before, she had to resort to the distinguished [Alexandre] Pétion to save her. The people put their trust in him, and the destiny of Haiti has not wavered since.”

### U.S.-led sabotage and corruption against economy

Like Venezuela after its independence, Haiti’s economic growth was sabotaged with invasions and coups — in Haiti’s case from 1915 to 1934 with the occupation initiated by then-President Woodrow Wilson. In 1929, a brutal suppression by U.S. soldiers of a nationwide strike killed at least 1,500 people.

This repression forced a change in the constitution, setting up the financial basis for U.S. ownership of Haiti’s assets and land. Later on, the U.S. would use more subtle but just as effective forms to steal resources from the Haitian people using cheap rice subsidized to U.S. farmers to drive Haitian rice farmers out of business, while at the same time increasing “humanitarian” aid, using rice as a weapon to supposedly provide the food to those negatively impacted by the predatory trade policies of the U.S. through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The rice would then be distributed into the Haitian market at cheaper prices than the Haitian rice to further flood the market.

This was done to force an end to the domestic production of rice and other agricultural production for domestic needs into production for export only. These policies are also mandatory dictates from the IMF, using future loans as extortion to force government compliance, resulting in the dependence on foreign imports and “aid” and the loss of livelihoods in Haiti, increasing poverty exponentially.

A clear example of this is written

on the Haiti Solidarity website in an article titled: How the United States Crippled Haiti’s Rice Industry by Leslie Mullin:

“Ronald Reagan’s 1984 Caribbean Basin Initiative prompted a major increase in U.S. food aid to Haiti. In 1984, Haiti received \$11 million in food aid; from 1985–88, Haiti received \$54 million in food aid. The Caribbean Basin Initiative called for integrating Haiti into the global market by redirecting 30 percent of Haiti’s domestic food production towards export crops, a plan that USAID experts systematically carried out.”

It’s therefore no wonder why the CIA World Factbook admits that the unemployment rate in Haiti is over 40 percent (2010 estimate) and that two-thirds of the labor force do not have full-time jobs while 58.5 percent of Haitian people (2012 estimate) live below the poverty line and only 38 percent (2013 estimate) have electricity.

In spite of all this, the movement of resistance continues to grow, as witnessed during the protests in Haiti from 2015 to 2017 against fraudulent U.S.-sponsored elections. That rise in the movement led to the first democratic elections in Haiti in 1991.

When Jean-Claude Duvalier, also known as Baby Doc, the son of Haiti’s infamous dictator Francois Duvalier, was forced to flee the country due to popular anger and protest, he was followed by a junta supported by the U.S. and instructed by the IMF into policies severely hurting Haitian farmers. This forced another rebellion that led to the democratic election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Lavalas Movement. Like President Maduro in the 2018 elections in Venezuela, he also received 67 percent of the vote.

Aristide’s policies were dedicated to working towards an economy that benefits the poor and forces the rich to pay taxes while fighting off IMF austerity and ruling-class corruption. And as the Bolivarian Revolution began to make tremendous strides at its birth in reducing poverty by redirecting priorities towards working and poor people, so did the Aristide government.

According to an article by Robert Roth, co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee, titled Haiti: Roots of an Uprising:

“Despite two U.S.-orchestrated coups against the administrations

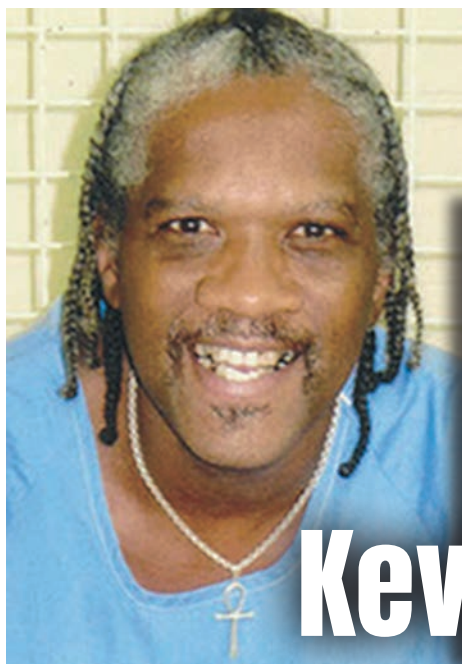
of former president Aristide, despite a sophisticated COINTELPRO-style campaign aimed at dividing and marginalizing Fanmi Lavalas and its allies, despite 14 years of United Nations military occupation, despite stolen elections, and despite the grinding economic misery facing most Haitian families, the popular movement has persisted.

“Why? This is a movement that has sunk its roots deep — and it remains the central force in the country capable of building an alternative to corruption and repression. During the years that the Lavalas governments were in power, more schools were built than in the entire previous history of Haiti. Health clinics sprouted up throughout the country, as the Aristide administrations spent unprecedented amounts on health care.”

The U.S. responded to progress made by Haiti with the same solution it tried against Venezuela — a coup. It failed in 2002 against the Bolivarian government, but succeeded against Aristide. Leslie Mullin writes:

“Just seven months after his inauguration, President Aristide and the democratic government were overthrown in a bloody military coup led by General Raoul Cedras. Trained in the United States and funded by the CIA, Cedras commanded the Haitian Army. His regime unleashed the collective violence of Haiti’s repressive forces against its own people. From 1991 to 1994, nearly five thousand Lavalas activists and supporters of the constitutional government were massacred; many others were savagely tortured and imprisoned. Rape as a political weapon was widespread. Three hundred thousand Haitians were driven into hiding, while tens of thousands fled the country.”

The final parallel between Haiti and Venezuela — the list of war criminals following suit with U.S. war crimes against sovereign countries filled with Black and Brown people is a further crime of racist genocide. Whether they are Canadian, French or even South American countries marching to the beat of imperialism, people should disrupt and shut down those embassies in concert and solidarity with the protests of the courageous people of Haiti. Let’s build a militant solidarity movement in defense of our international Haitian family and reject the invisibility of the glorious legacy and current Black struggle in Haiti.



# Kevin Cooper

By M. Odom

To very little fanfare, in December 2018, new DNA testing was ordered for California death row inmate Kevin Cooper, a Black man accused of killing four white people. For over 30 years, Cooper has been on California's death row for the gruesome Chino Hills murders in 1983. Chino Hills is a semi-rural town east of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley. Cooper has maintained his innocence in the crime, investigative journalists and legal experts have insisted Cooper is the victim of a framing by law enforcement and deadly crime partners, and radical anti-prison activists have been the only ones to mobilize in defense of Cooper. Cooper's case is of crucial importance to the fight against mass incarceration. Cooper's case highlights the racism in prosecution, not only in law enforcement. The forensic lab and San Bernardino County sheriff's department, which in subsequent years to the Cooper case had been proven to lie and plant evidence at the scene of crimes, settled upon Cooper as their main suspect in the crime. Evidence and personal accounts suggest that at least three white-presenting men were responsible for the killings. With what the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof has described as a clear cover-up, why hasn't Cooper's case been the cause celebre it deserves to be?

## Liberal Prison Reform Versus Radical Prison Abolition

In recent years, prison reform activities have gained increased celebrity within liberal and moderate conservative aspects of U.S. society. With rivaling superstar couples of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West and Jay-Z and Beyoncé in opposite corners, some cases that radical activists have been advocating for quite some time have gained much notori-

ety. Jay-Z produced a six-part series on the late Kalief Browder and has been a part of a popular campaign to bail out people awaiting trial. Jay-Z and Beyoncé quietly spent millions of dollars to help the defense of the formerly incarcerated rapper Meek Mills — and they have now united with Meek Mills and a football team owner to push for further prison reform legislation. As well, Kardashian and West have appealed to Donald Trump and social media for prison reform and clemency. In the summer of 2018, Alice Marie Johnson was released from federal custody following appeals from Kardashian and West. In late December 2018, President Trump signed the First Step Act, passed by the Senate by a margin of 87 to 12. Van Jones described the bill as a "Christmas Miracle." On Jan. 7 of this year, incarcerated former sex worker Cyntoia Brown had her sentence of 51 years to life commuted to 15 years. For over a decade, Cyntoia's case had been relegated to the ranks of anti-prison activists and former sex workers. Yet, again, her commutation has been attributed to the work of Kim Kardashian and others.

It must be made explicitly clear that all of the people released do not only deserve to be released, they should have never been incarcerated in the first place. Radicals are critical of liberal prison reformism, especially these partnerships of elected officials and entertainers, because of their frequent use of what might be called "the question of innocence." As Mills College professor Priya Kandaswamy has noted: "From the vantage point of people who have historically been perceived as guilty, innocence is not a viable ground on which to build political claims. These experiences highlight the often deadly consequences of making rights contingent on innocence and expose the fact that innocence and guilt are socially constructed categories that hinge upon

# An appeal for freedom and prison abolition

one's relationship to the state, not on one's own character or actions." Popular concern over mass incarceration has too often focused its gaze on the innocence and even value of the incarcerated person. Liberal prison reformers forego criticism of the racial capitalist incarceration regime which, in fact, makes the question of innocence or guilt quite irrelevant. In short, to suggest that the only reason someone deserves to be released is because they are innocent or "don't belong there" reasons to suggest that there are, in fact, people who do belong in prison. This contradiction explains the lenient sentences from the "Affluenza" case to Brock Peters, even in the face of public outcry. It also explains why Kevin Cooper was charged with these murders and why popular concern has overlooked Cooper and countless other incarcerated people.

## Free 'Em All!

Amongst radical anti-prison activists, the terms "Free 'em all" and "All prisoners are political prisoners" are popular sayings. In San Diego, this is why members of the Committee Against Police Brutality and the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee simultaneously struggle for the release of prominent political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal as well as advocating for the release of gang members and addicts rounded up in unjust federal drug indictments. For radical activists, mass incarceration has been proven to not be about right or wrong. It is about the warehousing of surplus populations of people of color and the poor that society has valued disposable. As Kristoff notes, Cooper had recently escaped from the minimum security yard at the California Institute for Men in Chino "and deputies who examined his file and mugshot saw a black man with a huge Afro who fit their narrative of an incorrigible criminal. He had a long arrest record dating back to when he was 7 years old." Cooper was arrested because he fit the dominant notion of a criminal and not because he committed the crime. Investigators singled in on Cooper and then made the evidence fit.

Prosecutors alleged that Cooper killed Douglas and Peggy Ryen, their 10-year-old daughter Jessica and a family friend, 11-year-old Chris-

topher Hughes, because he wanted to steal their station wagon. Meanwhile, the companion of the man that many other people assume to be one of the actual killers, all white presenting, came forward with evidence that it was likely her partner — whose name this article has chosen to withhold. The man's companion identified a bloody t-shirt and missing hatchet as likely to be his property. She also presented bloody coveralls as evidence. Blonde and brown hairs were even found in the hands of the victims. The investigators discarded the coveralls and, advocates suggest, began to falsify evidence to imply that Cooper committed the murders. Former FBI agent and deputy head of the bureau's Los Angeles office has frankly admitted that: "The evidence was planted, he was framed, the cops lied on the stand."

## New Testing Ordered

Previously, California Gov. Jerry Brown and Kamala Harris, in her role as state attorney general, refused to allow new DNA testing in the case. Yet, following Kristof's exposé in the New York Times, the now-Sen. Kamala Harris and Sen. Dianne Feinstein reversed their positions and advocated for the advanced DNA testing that Brown ordered, as previously noted.

Radical activists who have consistently demanded the release of Cooper anxiously await the results of the new testing. Prison abolitionists and anti-police terror organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area continue to hold rallies outside the San Quentin State Prison, where Cooper is held captive. For activists, this account of injustice evinces the need for a complete overturning of the U.S. incarceration industry, including an end to the death penalty. Cooper's freedom does not hinge on the exceptional nature of his case. There is strong evidence that at least 15 of the nearly 1,500 prisoners executed since the reinstitution of the death penalty in 1976 have been innocent, and many others put to death before 1976 have been posthumously pardoned. In fact, the 2011 execution of Troy Davis was a crucial catalyst of the contemporary Movement for Black Lives. Still, activists understand that this heavy lifting towards prison abolition must be led first and foremost by the people — not entertainers and not politicians. [REDACTED]

# Vaughn prisoners sue over Delaware abuse

By Leon Koufax  
Prisoners Solidarity Committee

Inmates at the Vaughn Correctional Facility, the largest prison in Delaware, have filed a lawsuit against state corrections officials for "physically, mentally and emotionally" abusing prisoners. The lawsuit was filed in January.

"The higher ranking officers and administration knew about the abuses and torment permeating throughout the environment," the handwritten complaint states. "They chose to either support or encourage these be-

haviors or turn a blind eye to them." (Delaware News Journal, Feb. 4)

Many people know that Vaughn was the site of a prisoner uprising in February 2017. What many do not know is the level of physical, emotional and psychological abuse that prisoners at Vaughn have faced in the years before and since. The corrupt Delaware corrections system and state government do everything in their power to sweep these conditions under the rug.

It's crucial that we stand in solidarity with the plaintiffs of this lawsuit, as we must with the Vaughn

prisoners that PSC organizers know personally: Anthony White and Felnel Baine. These two men have asked that we share their names. They are committed to the struggle against the violent prison-industrial system. In particular, they hope to expose the corruption of the Delaware Department of Corrections.

The 2017 uprising was nothing less than a struggle for prisoners' humanity inside an utterly inhumane



PHOTO: PRISONERS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Activists from Baltimore and Philadelphia held a protest outside the prison to support the Vaughn uprising in 2017.

system. We stand unequivocally behind the prisoners' efforts towards accountability and justice, including this lawsuit.

For updates and to get involved with the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, visit and "like" our page on Facebook. [REDACTED]

# Venezuela Bolivariana derrotó firmemente la fecha para el cambio de régimen

Por Cheryl LaBash

Washington, D.C. — Venezuela Bolivariana derrotó firmemente la fecha del 23 de febrero establecida por los Estados Unidos para el cambio de régimen. Los provocativos planes ampliados por los medios de prensa corporativos de violar las leyes Venezolanas que sirven para controlar sus fronteras e importaciones, fueron sólidamente rechazados. Las barreras humanas unidas de la policía venezolana, las fuerzas militares y las masas chavistas detuvieron firmemente la “ayuda” militarizada.

Frustrados por su fracaso político, en el lado de la frontera Colombiana, los camiones que supuestamente transportaban ayuda humanitaria fueron incendiados en las cercanías de pandillas que llenaban botellas de gasolina – mejor llamadas bombas molotov.

La entrega el 21 de febrero, de 7.5 toneladas de medicina demuestra que la noción de que el presidente Nicolás Maduro Moros rehúsa “ayuda humanitaria” es una mentira. Estos envíos semanales son comprados por Venezuela, eludiendo las sanciones bloqueadoras estadounidenses, que prohíbe y castiga estas ventas a través del mercado dominado por el dólar. La Organización Panamericana de la Salud, la Organización Mundial de la Salud y otras entidades afiliadas a las Naciones Unidas continúan trabajando con el gobierno Bolivariano. La Cruz Roja y otras agencias de ayuda internacionales han condenado la politización de la ayuda humanitaria. Ellos no participaron en los eventos en Cúcuta, Colombia, aunque su símbolo de la cruz roja fue fraudulentamente utilizado allí.

El pretendiente a presidente respaldado por los Estados Unidos, Juan Guaidó, ha aumentado su llamado a la intervención militar estadounidense, apoyado por los peligrosos comentarios del Secretario de Estado de los EE.UU. Mike Pompeo y el senador Marco Rubio. El vice presidente de los EE.UU. Mike Pence programó una reunión el 25 de febrero con Juan Guaidó y el presidente Colombi-



Puente de la Angostura, cerca de Bolívar, Venezuela a 20 de febrero.

ano de derecha, Iván Duque, en Bogotá, para planear una nueva agresión.

¿Qué líder convocaría ese desastre contra su propio pueblo? Los observadores solo deben acordarse de la invasión de Iraq, de Libia, recordar la agresión estadounidense contra Siria y la devastación armada de Yemen por parte de los Estados Unidos. Como el canciller venezolano Jorge Arreaza señaló en una entrevista de una hora en Democracy Now, las bombas de los Estados Unidos no discriminan entre las familias de los pro-chavistas y la oposición.

El apoyo sereno, firme y unido de la Revolución Bolivariana hacia el Presidente Maduro y la resistencia a las provocaciones en la frontera ya han producido grietas en la alianza pro-estadounidense. El 25 de febrero, tanto España como la Unión Europea se distanciaron del llamado a guerra de los Estados Unidos y Guaidó y anunciaron que no apoyarán una intervención militar.

Medios de prensa corporativos siguen cómplices de cambio de régimen por el imperialismo estadounidense

Los medios de prensa corporativos internacionales en EE.UU y Bretaña continúan orientando su cobertura para legitimar el plan de golpe Guaidó-EE.UU. Que 150 ciudades en el mundo se manifestaron contra la guerra de los EE.UU. hacia Venezuela de alguna manera no es de interés periodístico. ¿Donde están las entrevistas que muestran que los

trabajadores y los pobres en los Estados Unidos recuerdan las descaradas mentiras que llevaron a la invasión estadounidense de Iraq y la destrucción de Libia?

¿Por qué la interrupción el 21 de febrero, de la conferencia de prensa intentada por el monigote de los Estados Unidos queriendo normalizar a los conspiradores del golpe no fue cubierta en las noticias de las 6, cuando Medea Benjamin y Ariel Gold de Code Pink tomaron el micrófono y hablaron la verdad?

Ha habido algún progreso en la Radio Pública Nacional. Demostraciones como las de Detroit han denunciado sus informes parciales.

Estas y otras voces más continúan movilizándose y educando a amplios sectores de los pobres y los trabajadores estadounidenses quienes no ganan nada con otra guerra de EE.UU. para llenar los bolsillos de los bancos y los monopolios internacionales de combustibles fósiles como Exxon Mobil.

Una demostración nacional se va a llevar a cabo en Washington, D.C., el 16 de marzo y otra dos sábados más tarde, el 30 de marzo, antes de que la Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte se reúna el 4 de abril. Esta última fecha es un insulto por ser el aniversario del asesinato del Reverendo Martin Luther King. Apoye las manifestaciones de protesta, constrúyalas, asista. En Los Ángeles, el 16 de marzo, vaya a McArthur Park a las 11 a.m. para un esfuerzo de múltiples organizaciones, y más tarde en el día con la Answer Coalition.

TeleSUR y otros medios de comunicación internacionales son recursos que contrarrestan la narrativa imperialista. TeleSUR mismo puede desaparecer del Internet y de las ondas de radio si se produce un golpe de estado. Algunos medios de prensa independientes en los EE.UU. están disponibles en línea, incluidas estaciones de radio como WPFW-FM en Washington, DC, medios de comunicación que se oponen a las guerras de los Estados Unidos contra personas de raza negra y marrón y contra la clase trabajadora dentro de los Estados Unidos y en el exterior.

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